the nature of the material. Moulded bricks were also used to make up general forms, such as circular piers, the inner side of circular turrets, &c.

There are a few points in the construction of the buildings we have been examining which ought not to be passed over. There is usually a granite plinth carried all round the churches, and the towers are faced with the same several feet up. The absence of buttresses to the towers rendered it necessary to increase the thickness of the walls, which we find is very considerable; notwithstanding which they mostly incline from the upright, and it is remarkable that this occurs most frequently towards the S.W. While speaking of the mortar-joints, I should mention that they are invariably very wide (from ½ in. to ¾ in. or even more)—the mortar itself is extremely hard, and the lime used was, for the district we are considering, principally supplied from Segeberg, in Holstein.

The construction of the vaulting, I think, claims particular attention. In the first place, a light material was prepared in bricks, moulded of a wedge form. The ribs seem to have been first constructed, independently, as a skeleton, and between them the spandrils were filled in with the light bricks, apparently without the use of centring, as each spandril is considerably arched up to enable it to support its own or any superincumbent weight; thus the vaulting rests entirely on the ribs, which are not tailed into it. It is a single brick in thickness, about 6 in., and is backed up only a very short distance above the springing, so that the form is very distinctly seen on the upper surface, where it presents a very remarkable appearance. The bond used throughout is the Flemish, or cross-bond, as it is there called: the arches are always built in half-brick rings.

CHARLES FOWLER, Jun.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS' FEES.

A DECISION has been just now obtained on a question concerning district surveyors' fees, which ought to be generally made known. For reasons which some will, we hope, appreciate, we avoid naming the district, and give simply the facts.

Mr. Gerry, builder, had done certain works at a villa residence (first-rate) belonging to Mr. Mordan, namely,—added a bow window to the drawing-room, a smaller bow to the library, and a small portico at the side of the house; a conservatory adjoining and communicating with the house was brought forward 2 feet; and a detached stable was raised 3 feet, and a small chaise-house formed adjoining it.

The works were all executed at the same time and under one notice.

The district surveyor sent the following list of charges:—

June, 1849.			
Fees of front bow addition, rear bow addition, and also of portico addition on west flank of dwelling-house as aforesaid, at 1*l.* 15*s.* each respectively* ..	£3	5	0
Fee of detached building (chaise-house) .	1	15	0
Fee of addition and alteration of detached stable building of second class and fourth rate	0	10	0
Fee of ditto of conservatory of ditto	0	10	0
	£8	0	0

Payment was refused, and the district surveyor applied to the referees to confirm the correctness of the account. The referees awarded as follows:—

"First.—With regard to the first item of the said account, namely, the sum of 3*l.* 5*s.*, for additions to the said dwelling-house,—that inasmuch as the works in respect of which the said sum is claimed were all executed at the same time, upon the same building, such works form only *one* addition to or alteration of such building, and that *one* fee only is payable to the said district surveyor in respect thereof—namely, the sum of 1*l.* 15*s.*, being the fee provided by schedule L of the said Act first herein mentioned, for an alteration made to a building of the first rate.

Secondly.—With regard to the second item of the said account, namely, the sum of 1*l.* 15*s.*, for the building of 'a detached building containing a chaise-house,' &c.,—that such chaise-house is not, and is not to be rated as, a distinct building separately from the stable with which it is connected, but forms one building with such stable, and that the fee payable to the said district surveyor for the supervision of the erection of such chaise-house is the sum of 10*s.*, and no more, being the fee provided by schedule L of the said Act first herein mentioned, for an addition or alteration made to a building of the fourth rate, and not containing more than two stories.

Thirdly.—With regard to the third item of the said account, namely, the sum of 10*s.*, for 'an addition or alteration of a detached stable building,'—that inasmuch as the works in respect of which such fee has been claimed were executed upon the said stable building at the same time that the said chaise-house was added thereto, the whole forming one detached building, no separate fee is payable to the said district surveyor in respect of the raising of the said detached building.

Fourthly.—With regard to the fourth item of the said account, namely, the sum of 10*s.*, for an addition to or alteration of the said conservatory,—that inasmuch as such conservatory is an appendage to the said dwelling-house, and inasmuch as the works upon the said conservatory, in respect of which such fee has been claimed, were executed at the same time as the aforesaid addition to or alteration of the said dwelling-house, such works formed part of the said addition or alteration, and no separate fee is payable to the said district surveyor in respect thereof."

The costs (2*l.* 9*s.*) to be paid by the district surveyor.

This award was dated Dec. 17, 1849. The registrar, considering it objectionable in point of law, referred it to the Commissioners of Works for their decision, and the commissioners, a few days ago, directed him to affix the seal.

* These fees are described by the surveyor as "charged in accordance with decision of Commissioners of Works *in re* Whittell and Badger, D.S.," at which we must take an opportunity to look.

SOANE'S CHARGES.

PROFESSIONAL REMUNERATION.

THE following is a copy of the bill delivered by Sir John (then Mr.) Soane to Mr. Beckford, exhibited by Mr. Tite at the Institute on Monday evening last:—

"William Beckford, Esq.,

To John Soane.

1787.			
April.—A journey to Fonthill (time and expenses).....	£8	8	0
Taking plans of the situation for the intended gallery, making fair drawings of a design for forming the gallery, and introducing the prints of the Vatican	12	12	0
Making a fair drawing of a design for finishing the niche heads in the tapestry-room; making fair drawings of the chimney-pieces for the tapestry-room and S. E. parlour ..	3	3	0
Dec. 3.—A journey to Fonthill (time and expenses).....	8	8	0
1788.			
Jan. — Making two designs for state beds, and fair drawings of the same ..	10	10	0
Wilmot (plaisterer) £36 14 4			
Bankes (sculptor)..... 93 3 6			
Nelson (mason)..... 135 5 4			
£265 3 2			
Commission for making the working drawings for the above, attending the execution, and measuring the work, &c., 5 per cent. on 265*l.*.....	13	5	0
	£56	6	0
Paid Thomas Bankes, as per bill.....	93	3	6
Paid James Nelson, ditto.....	135	5	4
	£284	14	10

December 2nd, 1788.

"Received of William Beckford, Esq., by the hands of Thomas Wildman, Esq., two hundred and eighty-four pounds fourteen shillings and tenpence, in full, for surveying and money paid for chimney-pieces, as per bill delivered: I say in full of all demands.

£284 14 10.

(Signed) JOHN SOANE."

It will be observed that Soane charges in this bill for his time occupied in travelling, a sum for each design, and *then* 5 per cent. commission on the cost of the work,—an indulgence not now usually accorded to architects. Another point noticeable is his having been employed to design the state-beds. This item, when read, caused a laugh, showing (and much it is to be regretted) that architects are now seldom so employed. A laugh would be more legitimately raised against those who do *not* employ a properly qualified person to design their furniture, to accord with the rooms in which it is to stand; and who so fit as he who designed the rooms?

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A NEW banking house for the Northamptonshire Banking Company is now erecting at Northampton. Mr. E. F. Law is the architect. A new ragged school is also erecting at Northampton under the same architect. The funds for the erection of this school have been raised as a thank-offering for deliverance from the late grievous sickness, and is being erected in the locality where the disease made the most fearful ravages.——The trade of Portsmouth and Portsea, says the *Hampshire Independent*, are holding consultations for the purpose of inducing their gas company to submit to the reduction of a solitary sixpence upon the not unreasonable charge of 6*s.* 6*d.* per thousand; and it remains to be seen whether the tradesmen of Newport will remain long dormant, under the infliction of ten shillings for an inferior article, whilst the minor town of Cowes can be supplied at a far less amount.——The Plymouth council having called for tenders for cast-iron piping for water supply, upwards of 26 were sent in, varying in price from 6*l.* to 5*l.* per ton. The tender of the Colebrook Dale Company was accepted at 5*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* per ton. ——At a crowded meeting of Baptists in a hayloft at Haverfordwest, on Tuesday week, the beams of the flooring gave way, and precipitated the congregation amongst a collection of cows below. The reverend pastor alighted safely on a cow's back, with a boy on his own, but some of his flock met with rather serious falls; so that there seems to be some sense, after all, in the 'moral' of 'the old jackdaw's' experienced and sagacious advice to 'the young jackdaws,' against 'ever getting up upon the tops of the cows,'—incongruous elevations like these being apt to end in dirty falls, even in the purest and greenest of pastures. ——A water-works company, with a capital of 5,000*l.*, in 500 shares of 10*l.* each, is to be established at Pont-y-pool. The advice of Mr. W. Llewellin, C.E., points to the wells at Gellypistil for the requisite supply of pure water, and plans have been prepared.—— The Kidderminster Corn Exchange Committee have reported to the council their recommendation to advertise for tenders for the erection of the building forthwith, and also for the loan of 12,000*l.*, at 4 per cent., for that purpose, if requisite.—— Upwards of 8,000*l.* have been already subscribed for the new public hall at Bradford.——The Whittle Dean Water Company, says the *Gateshead Observer*, have been increasing their charges even 25 per cent., but whether the advance be a judicious one is very questionable.——The inhabitants of Carlisle have, in a very few days, subscribed nearly 600*l.* towards the purchase of a building for the use of their Mechanics' Institute.——The Ordnance Survey of Mid Lothian is to be the next survey undertaken by the corps of Sappers and Miners, who have already commenced at Edinburgh with the previous triangulation of that city, the survey of which is to be laid down on a scale of 5 feet to a mile, the other towns mostly on one of 6 inches to a mile. If we understand rightly, this has been already done by a private speculator.

THE VIADUCT OF THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY at Peterborough, across the river Nene, comprises a bridge of cast-iron, formed by three arches, with a span of 66 feet each, resting on two supports, and sustained by twenty-four fluted pillars fixed by atmospheric pressure. At the north end of the bridge four brick arches will intervene between it and the embankment leading to the station at Sexton Barns; three arches of the same dimensions in the meadow will divide the bridge from the passage over the two railways running at a lower level—the London and North-Western and the Syston and Peterborough lines, which will be supported by twelve columns; and between this passage and the embankment to the south will be erected a series of nine arches, similar to those on the north.

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